

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-1281V

UNPUBLISHED

ROBERT HARSHBERGER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: April 2, 2021

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*Leah VaSahnja Durant, Law Offices of Leah V. Durant, PLLC, Washington, DC, for  
Petitioner.*

*Christine Mary Becer, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On August 27, 2019, Robert Harshberger filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on October 4, 2018. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On January 22, 2021, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On April 1, 2021, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$52,513.87 (comprised of 52,500.00 for pain and suffering and \$13.87 for out-of-pocket expenses). Proffer at 1-

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* at 1. Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$52,513.87 (comprised of \$52,500.00 for pain and suffering and \$13.87 for out-of-pocket expenses) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**  
Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

ROBERT HARSHBERGER,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 19-1281V
	)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
	)	ECF
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND	)	
HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

## I. Procedural History

On January 14, 2021, respondent filed a Vaccine Rule 4(c) report concluding that petitioner sustained the onset of a left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) within the Table time period following an influenza vaccine, and therefore sustained an injury that is compensable under the terms of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§300aa-10 to -34. ECF No. 23. Accordingly, on January 22, 2021, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for SIRVA following the influenza vaccine he received on October 4, 2018. ECF No. 24.

## II. Items of Compensation

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$52,500.00 for pain and suffering and \$13.87 for out-of-pocket expenses.

This represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

**III. Form of the Award**

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following<sup>1</sup>: a lump sum payment of \$52,513.87, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

**IV. Summary of Recommended Payments Following Judgment**

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Robert Harshberger: **\$52,513.87**

Respectfully submitted,

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Acting Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO  
Acting Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
Acting Deputy Director  
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Torts Branch, Civil Division

s/Christine Mary Becer  
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DATED: April 1, 2021

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future pain and suffering.